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BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1952.

BLAYDON
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BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1952.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

HENRY RUSSELL, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Clerk :

DOUGLAS D. BLAIR

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Blaydon-on-Tyne,
July, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Blaydon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1952.

There has been a considerable fall in the Death Rate and the diseases of the Cardio-Vascular system were again the chief killing factors.

Cancer was easily the second most important cause of death.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is (with the exception of 1949) the lowest on record.

There has been no case of diphtheria since 1949.

We had the largest number of notifications of Whooping Cough since it became a notifiable disease. We hope that an effective means of immunisation against this disease will soon be available. Though we had no deaths it is a most distressing illness and often leads to chronic ill-health.

We had several outbreaks of Dysentery and Food Poisoning and each outbreak presents the Health Department with a difficult problem. We know that these outbreaks are caused by the dirty and careless handling and preparation of food. Since we usually get the notification some days after the consumption of the infected article and the destruction of the remainder it is usually impossible to assign the guilt. It seems that only intensification of the "Clean Food" propaganda can help in reducing these outbreaks.

Our thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health, the Surveyor, the Rating Department, and the Housing Surveyor for information included in my report.

I wish again to give my personal thanks to the Staff of the Health Department who were at all times ready with their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY RUSSELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Area

Since 1936 the acreage has remained at 9,274.

Present density of population is 3.29 persons per acre.

Highest density of population (in 1925) was 3.96 persons per acre.

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of our mid-1952 civilian population is 30,510 an increase of 10 on last year.

At the 1931 census the population stood at 32,363.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952 was 9,195.

The density of persons per house was therefore 3.318.

Rateable Value

The rateable value of the district, as at the 30th December, 1952, was £127,403 excluding Freight, Transport and Electrical Hereditaments. The average rateable value per head of population was £4-3-6d. and the estimated product of a 1d. rate was £481.

Industries of the District

These are chiefly mining and ancillary industries for production of coke and other by-products. There are also Iron and Steel Engineering Works, Iron Foundries and Chemical Works. Blaydon is also a railway centre with large Locomotive Sheds.

Agriculture—chiefly dairy farming—is an important industry in the area.

Physical Features

Hilly area, Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lie low, Winlaton and Chopwell high. The rivers Tyne and Derwent form parts of the boundary.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1952.

Births

Total Live Births	...	...	484	258M	226F
Total Illegitimate Births	...	...	8	5M	3F
Total Still Births	...	...	12	5M	7F

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 15.87 per 1,000 population and a Still Birth Rate of 0.39 per 1,000 population.

Birth Rate for Administrative County	...	...	17.3
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.3
Birth Rate for 160 Smaller Towns	...	...	15.5
(Population 25,000 to 50,000).			

Deaths

The total number of Deaths recorded during the year was 312 of which 191 were males and 121 females giving an Annual Death Rate of 10.23 per 1,000 population as compared with last year's rate of 12.4.

Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
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Death Rate for Administrative County	10.9
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The Cardio-Vascular group of diseases was again the chief cause of death : viz :— 175.

The next most important cause of death was Cancer with 55 deaths.

Infantile Mortality.

Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 14 (6M 8F). 7 of the deaths occurred in the first 4 weeks of life (4M 3F).

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 29 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the County is 33 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 27.6 per 1,000 live births.

No children under the age of 1 year died from Gastro-enteritis. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 1.1 per 1,000 live births.

A graph is appended (page ten) comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates during the last 21 years in Blaydon, Durham County and England and Wales.

Maternal Mortality

There was 1 death from maternal causes giving a Maternal Mortality Rate of 2.048 per 1,000 live births. The Maternal Mortality Rate for the Administrative County is 1.06 and 0.72 for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis

There were 5 deaths (2 males and 3 females) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 death (male) from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis...0.196 per 1,000 pop.
County Death Rate from all forms of

Tuberculosis	0.28 per 1,000 pop.
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England and Wales—Death Rate from all

forms of Tuberculosis	0.24 per 1,000 pop.
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New cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year numbered :
30 Pulmonary (18M 12F) 8 Non-Pulmonary (4M 4F).

Ambulance Facilities

Durham County Council provide the ambulance service under the National Health Service Act.

Doctors, Nurses and Dentists requiring an ambulance for any of their patients contact the nearest Ambulance Control, and the Officer-in-Charge arranges the necessary transport.

In the case of accident or other serious emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephoning the Ambulance Control.

The nearest Ambulance Control to Blaydon is at the Ambulance Station, Villa Real, Consett. (Telephone No. CONSETT 411.)

District Nursing

The County Council is the responsible Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act for the provision of a Home Nursing Service. Any requests for a Home Nurse should be made to the nurse resident in the district or to the County Medical Officer's Superintendent of Home Nursing.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Clinics for school children, maternity and child welfare are provided by the County Council at various centres throughout the district.

Dental and Sun-ray treatment are available for mothers and children at the Axwell Park, Blaydon Clinic which is the main centre in the district.

Hospital Provision

The provision of Hospital, Sanatorium and Maternity Home accommodation is the responsibility of the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board.

National Health Service Act, 1946

An Area Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee has been set up to deal with the undermentioned services in No. 1 Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts):

- (a) Health Centres;
- (b) Maternity and Child Welfare;
- (c) Midwifery;
- (d) Health Visitors;
- (e) Home Nursing;
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation;
- (g) Ambulances;
- (h) Prevention of illness and Care and After Care of Sick Persons;
- (i) Domestic Help.

Infectious Diseases :

Cases of Infectious Diseases are now removed to the Sheriff Hill Infectious Diseases Hospital or to the Walkergate Hospital.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district such cases would be treated at the Langley Park Hospital.

Venereal Diseases :

These are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases

During the year 454 notifications were received of which none proved negative. Once again Whooping Cough (161 notifications) and Measles (117 notifications) were most prevalent.

Typhoid Fever

No cases were notified.

Para-Typhoid Fever.

1 case was notified.

Smallpox

No cases were notified.

Typhus

No cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.

62 cases were notified.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

Immunisation against Diphtheria of children of all ages is the responsibility of the County Council.

Under 5 Years	Between 5 and 15 Years
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Number of Children immunised during the year ending 31-12-52	329	19
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Measles

117 cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 161 cases notified, chiefly during the third and fourth quarters. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia

14 cases were notified. (12 Lobar—2 Influenzal).

Erysipelas

1 case was notified.

Meningococcal Infections.

2 cases were notified. There was 1 death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases were notified.

Acute Infective Encephalitis

No cases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis

3 cases were notified all of which proved non-paralytic.

Puerperal Pyrexia

1 case was notified.

Dysentery

66 cases were notified.

Food Poisoning

26 cases were notified.

Laboratory Facilities

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Newcastle upon Tyne, by arrangement with the Durham County Council. They are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

The following table shows particulars of 1423 examinations carried out in respect of residents in the Blaydon Urban Area during 1952.

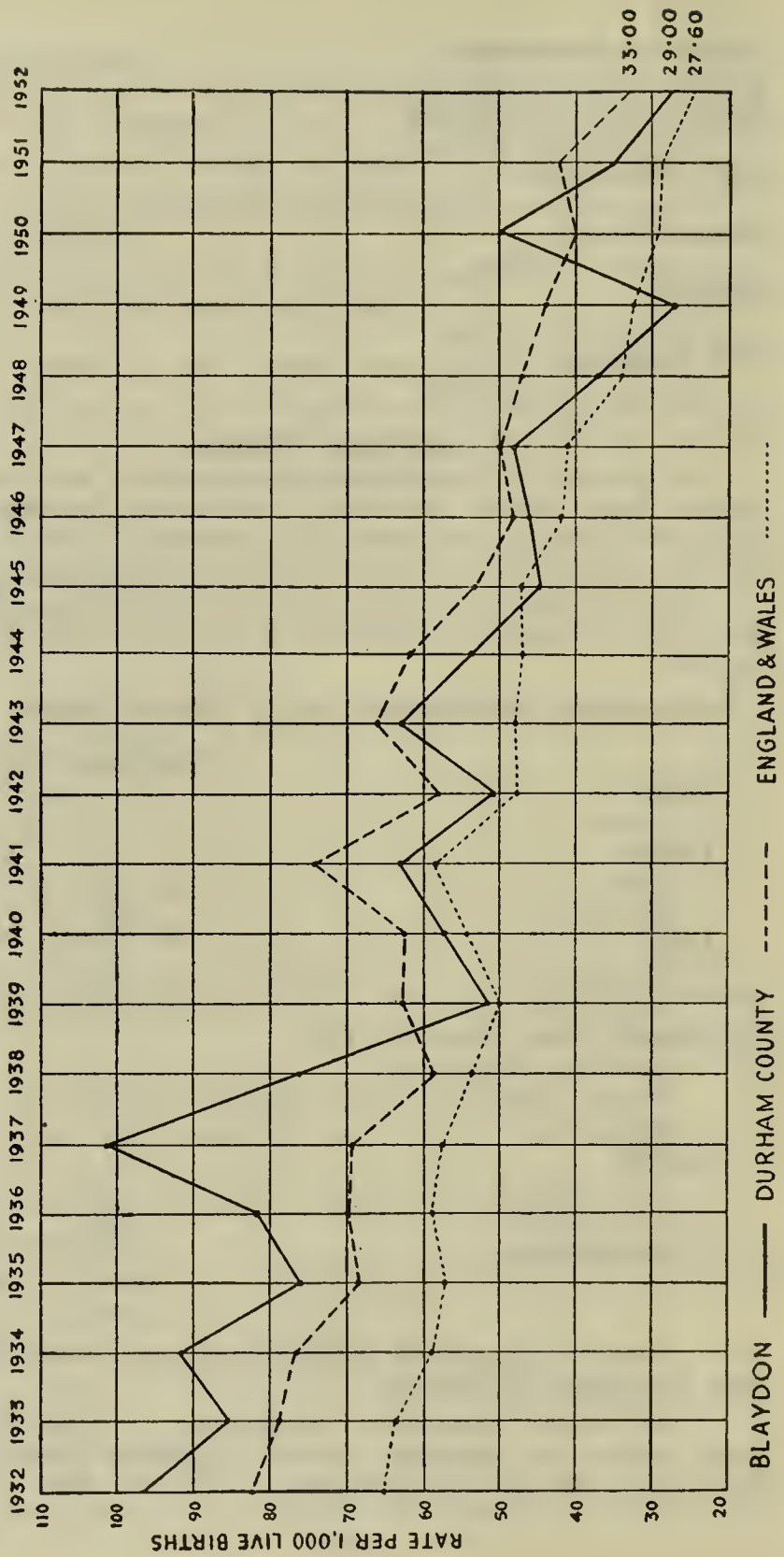
Bacteriological Examinations for the Blaydon District, 1952.

			No. of Specimens	Positive
Blood.				
Culture	...	...	2	2
Faeces				
Enteric	...	...	3	—
Organisms	...	...	191	92
Urine				
Organisms	...	...	10	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	8	—
Swabs (Throat, Nasal and Ear)				
Hæmolytic Streptococci	...	...	3	2
Vincent's Angina	...	...	1	—
Organisms	...	...	16	4
Sputum				
Tuberculosis	...	...	22	1
† Tuberculosis	...	...	1111	327
* Miscellaneous	...	...	52	9
			<hr/> 1423	<hr/> 442

† These are tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria.

* This section comprises examinations of Cerebro-Spinal Fluid; Sputum for organisms; Pus for Organisms. Pleural Fluid; Miscellaneous Material for pathogens.

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rate for Blaydon, Durham County, England and Wales since 1932.



Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5	1	1	2	2			1	
15	4	8		1		1		
25	3	2	1			1		
35	5	1				1		
45	3		1		1			
55	1							
65 & upwards	1			1	1			
Total	18	12	4	4	2	3	1	

Ratio of Non-Notified Tuberculous Deaths
to total Tuberculous Deaths ... 2 : 6

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1952.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital	Positive.	Negative.
Smallpox . .	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . .	62	12	62	—
Diphtheria . .	—	—	—	—
Typhoid . . .	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid . .	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . .	1	—	1	—
Pneumonia . .	14	1	14	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis . .	3	3	3	—
Dysentery . . .	66	—	66	—
Measles . . .	117	—	117	—
Whooping Cough . .	161	—	161	—
Meningococcal Infection .	2	1	2	—
Malaria . . .	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning . .	26	—	26	—
Membranous Croup . .	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas . . .	1	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1952

Analysis of Positive Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-34 years	35-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	TOTAL
Measles -	5	11	12	18	19	49	2	1					117
Whooping Cough -	12	21	22	31	22	47	4		1		1		161
Scarlet Fever -	1	2	3	3	12	33	7	1					62
Pneumonia -	1		1						2	2	4	4	14
Puerperal Pyrexia -									1				1
Erysipelas -											1		1
Para-Typhoid -					1								1
Poliomyelitis -			1			1		1					3
Dysentery -		2	3	2	2	29	7	1	8	5	5	2	66
Meningococcal Infection -		1							1				2
Food Poisoning -						2		1	9	7	7		26
TOTALS	19	37	42	54	56	161	20	5	22	14	18	6	454

**Registrar General's Short List
of Causes of Death during 1952**

Causes of Death.		Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
2	Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	...
3	Syphilitic disease	1	...
4	Diphtheria	...	...
5	Whooping Cough	...	...
6	Meningo-coccal infections	...	1
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...
8	Measles	...	...
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	...
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	12	4
11	" " lung, bronchus	3	1
12	" " breast ...	...	1
13	" " uterus	...	3
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	19	12
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	...	3
16	Diabetes	...	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	21	27
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	30	12
19	Hyper-tension with heart disease	1	3
20	Other heart disease	36	28
21	Other circulatory disease	15	2
22	Influenza	...	...
23	Pneumonia	7	6
24	Bronchitis	12	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	...
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	...
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	3
29	Hyper-plasia of prostate	...	...
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	1
31	Congenital malformations	1	...
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	...
34	All other accidents	6	...
35	Suicide	4	...
36	Homicide and operations of war...	...	...
Total Deaths ... 312		191	121

Factories' Act, 1937-1948

Factories in the district have been visited and any contraventions found were dealt with informally.

Bakehouses

The six bakehouses in the district have been visited and the need for hygienic handling of the products stressed.

Housing

As in previous years the inspection of dwelling houses, both routine and following complaints, has accounted for the major proportion of your Inspectors' time.

Many of the complaints were made by tenants occupying old houses which are incapable of being improved.

It is hoped that during 1953 several areas will be dealt with as Clearance Areas. The number of such areas and the number of houses involved depends upon the proportion of new houses which can be allocated to re-house the displaced families.

Erection of New Houses

From the figures supplied by the Housing Surveyor.

Erected by the Council	...	...	Highfield	88
			Winlaton	26
				<hr/>
Total				114
Police Houses	...	...	Blaydon	6
Private Owners	...	...	Rowlands Gill	1
				<hr/>
Total				121
				<hr/>

Demolition and Closure of Houses.

During the year 16 houses at Blackhall Mill have been demolished by agreement with the owners. The displaced families were re-housed by the Council.

1 house at Derwenthaugh was closed as unfit by agreement with the owner.

1 house at Winlaton was demolished following action under the Housing Act 1936.

Number of Houses in the District

Blaydon	...	...	...	2043
Stella	...	...	...	174
Winlaton	...	...	...	2460
Barlow	...	...	...	82
High Spen	...	...	...	746
Rowlands Gill	...	...	...	940
Victoria Garesfield and	...	...	Highfield	594
Lintzford	...	...	...	24
Chopwell	...	...	...	1530
Blackhall Mill	...	...	...	245
Winlaton Mill	...	...	...	357
				<hr/>

9195

Clean Food Campaign

Supervision of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food has continued during the year. The premises have been visited as often as possible and advice on the hygienic handling of food given to the personnel concerned.

Meat

Meat is received into this district from the North-Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association Ltd., Newcastle. As far as possible the meat is inspected at the allocation centres and in the sales shops.

Milk

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-49

The following licences under the above Regulations were granted during the year :—

Dealers Licences.

Pasteurised	...	...	...	13
Sterilised	29
Tuberculin Tested (Past)	10

Supplementary Licences

Pasteurised	1
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Milk receiving depots and dairies have been visited and appropriate action taken.

Ice Cream

Visits have been made to each of the six Ice-Cream manufacturing establishments and to all shops registered for the sale of Ice-cream. In five of the manufactories the main provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1948 are being complied with.

Catering Establishments

Attention has been paid to the catering establishments within the district and there is a steady improvement in the conditions and the standard of cleanliness is fairly satisfactory.

Food Inspection

The following quantities of food, found to be unsound, were voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of as to prevent them being used for the food of man.

Canned Meat

	No. of Tins	Weight
Ham	34	390 lb. 3 ozs.
Luncheon Meat	132	163 lb. 8 ozs.
Minced Beef Loaf	6	6 lb. 0 ozs.
Stewed Steaks etc.	19	23 lb. 0 ozs.
Jellied Veal	11	57 lb. 0 ozs.

Other Meats

9 x $4\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins Rabbit
1 x 60 lb. case of Skinned Rabbits
1 x 60 lb. case of Unskinned Rabbits
2 x 1 lb. 15 ozs. tins Chicken
1 x 15 ozs. tin Chicken
918 lb. 13 ozs. Mutton
303 lb. Beef
35 lb. Sausage
 $30\frac{1}{2}$ lb Pork Sausage
1 x $10\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. tin Sausage
62 lb. Gammon
60 lb 2 ozs. Bacon
 $16\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Black Pudding
26 lb. Faggots

	No. of Tins	Weight
Fish		
	60	35 lb. 0 ozs
Milk		
	46	
Jams and Marmalades		
	10	14 lb. 0 ozs.
Canned Fruits		
	257	306 lb. 9 ozs.
Canned Tomatoes		
	108	116 lb. 10 ozs.
Canned Beans		
	73	71 lb. 7 ozs.
Canned Peas		
	107	103 lb. 10 ozs.
Pickles		
	49	30 lb. 1 oz.
Sauces		

9 bottles

Sundries

7 lb. $5\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. Cheese
12 Fish Cakes
17 lb. Cake
1 x 9 lb. tin Lemon Butter
1 x 1 lb. tin Macaroni
 $27\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Dried Apricot
60 lb. Dried Prunes
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb Butter

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

In addition to the routine surveys made by the part-time Rodent Operator, all complaints of the presence of rats reported by the public were investigated and dealt with forthwith.

Every farm in the district has been visited during threshing periods to ensure that the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, are being complied with.

The bi-annual treatments of sewers were carried out with satisfactory results.

Sewage works and refuse tips were treated at least four times in the course of the year; where necessary additional treatment was given. All other Council properties have been kept under observation and treatment given where necessary.

